

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 L-03 H-02 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-07

TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 EB-07 /092 W

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R 151445Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5992

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

SECDEF WASHDC/ISA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3877

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET MILITARY SALES: KUWAITI-SOVIET

DIFFERENCES ON SOVIET ADVISORS REPORTED

REF: (A) KUWAIT 3775 (NOTAL), (B) KUWAIT 3374 (NOTAL)

1. KUWAIT PRESS (AL ANBA, AUGUST 15) REPORTS "RELIABLE SOURCES" AS REVEALING THAT GOK IS "PUTTING FINAL TOUCHES ON AGREEMENTS TO PURCHASE MODERN ARMS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE KUWAITI ARMY ABOUT WHICH NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE." SOURCES REPORTED AS SAYING ARMS WILL BE PURCHASED FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND WILL BE OF VARIOUS TYPES; APPROVAL OF RECENT DEFENSE PROCUREMENT BUDGET (REPORTED REFUL WOULD ENABLE GOK TO SIGN A NUMBER OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS. SOURCES "HINTED THAT THESE TRANSACTION INCLUDE WEAPONS FROM FRANCE, US, UK AND OTHER COUNTRIES." (MOD IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING IMPORTANT FMS SALES CASE WHICH REQUIRES DECISION THIS MONTH.)

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2. SAME PRESS REPORT QUOTED SOURCES AS FOLLOWS ON DEFENSE PURCHASES FROM SOVIET UNION: "THE SUBJECT OF THIS TRANSACTION... IS ALL BUT COMPLETED. THE FINAL MEASURES RELATING TO SIGNING IT, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN DELAYED UNTIL SOME TECHNICAL STEPS, WHICH ARE CONSIDERED A COMPLEMENTARY PART OF THE TRANSACTION, ARE COMPLETED, PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO THE QUESTION OF EXPERTS (KHUBARA') AND TO TRAINING. IN THE EVENT THAT THESE PROBLEMS ARE RESOLVED, THERE WILL BE NO OBJECTION TO SIGNING IT. SOURCES ADDED THAT KUWAIT IS NOT IN HURRY REGARDING THIS, SINCE IT ALWAYS USES CARE AND TAKES ITS TIME IN SUCH SENSITIVE MATTERS."

3. COMMENT: THIS PRESS REPORT, IF ACCURATE, IS THE FIRST GOK PUBLIC ALLUSION TO POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE PRESENCE IN KUWAIT OF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS, THOUGH WE HAD PRIVATE INDICATION LAST MONTH (REF B). (AS WE RECALL, THE ARABIC TERM KHUBARA' WAS WIDELY USED IN EGYPT TO INDICATE SOVIET MILITARY TECHNICIANS DURING PERIOD EGYPT HOSTED SOVIET DEFENSE ADVISORS.)

4. GIVE THE SOHISTICATED NATURE OF SOVIET EQUIPMENT WHICH THE GOK APPARENTLY INTENDS TO BUY--WE HAVE NO CLEARER PICTURE NOW THAN REPORTED REF B--WE PRESUME THAT THE SOVIET TRAINING OF KUWAITIS IN THE USSR WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, EXPECT THE GOK TO PERMIT SOVIET "EXPERTS" IN GREAT NUMBERS TO WORK AND LIVE IN KUWAIT. OUR EXPERIENCE WITH KUWAITI SENSITIVITY TO THE SIZE AND ACTIVITIES OF OUR OWN SMALL MILITARY PRESENCE SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT AY SOVIET "MAAG" WOULD BE PERMITTED TO INCLUDE ONLY KEY LIAISON PERSONNEL NECESSARY TO FACILITATE SALES, MUCH LIKE OUR OWN PLANNED USLOK. WE WOULD ALSO EXPECT GOK TO EMPLOY SECONDED MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM EGYPTIAN AND SYRIA AIR DEFENSE FORCES TO PROVIDE BULK OF ADVISERS NEEDED.

5. THE SOVIETS MAY HAVE OTHER IDEAS, HOWEVER, ABOUT THEIR OWN ADVISORY AND TRAINING ROLES RELATING TO KUWAITI ACQUISITIONS OF SOVIET MATERIEL. THEIR ACTUAL INTENTIONS REMAIN A MYSTERY, OF COURSE, BUT THE PRESS REPORT QUOTED ABOVE SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT THE PENDING ARMS PURCHASE HAS HIT A SNAG OVER PERSONNEL MATTERS. WE SPECULATE THAT SOVIET PRESENCE IS THE MAIN ISSUE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Draft Date:** 15 AUG 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MASS, KU, UR, US  
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